

Connie Morella LAC Meeting Minutes - 11/14/2023

Barbara Levine (LAC Chair), Patrick Fromm (Regional Manager), Colin Repetti (LAC Secretary), Claudia Deane (LAC member), Alison O'Brien (LAC member), Jim Montgomery (Library Board Member), Pavani Reddy (LAC member), Chris Sinsheimer (LAC member) present

Introductions

- Everyone introduced themselves, this is Patrick Fromm's first meeting with the LAC as Regional Manager
- Patrick Fromm discussed his career, some thoughts on the library system and some goals for the branch
 - He has been with MCPL in various branches and roles since 2017
 - MCPL operates very differently from other library systems both in how it is integrated with County government and its level of funding
 - Interest in increasing amount of programming because there is substantial interest
 - There is interest in increasing bilingual/non-English (Spanish and Mandarin) programming
 - More generally there is interest in increasing programming but currently the branch lacks capacity

Regional Manager's Report

- Patrick shared a dashboard of Connie Morella's key performance indicators
 - The dashboard has self-checkout circulation, total circulation, foot traffic, active users, programming, etc.
 - This was put together pretty recently by Weihua Zhou (Performance Management & Data Analyst) so it only has data starting from 2023
 - Currently Connie Morella is in the bottom half of branch event attendees but is near the bottom in the number of events held
 - This means the events are pretty well attended, we just need to increase the capacity for events
 - Given the size of the branch and the population it serves, you'd expect Connie Morella to be higher in event attendees
- We want to know how Patrick thinks the LAC can support Connie Morella
 - Convey any feedback we hear, even very minor stuff like offhand event ideas or minor messes
 - Grassroots advocacy
 - MCPL's job is to enact the vision of the County Executive
 - Members of the community have the opportunity to convey what they want to the County Council and it's very important, really makes a difference

- We can make a google drive for the LAC ourselves but the library probably can't provide one for us (they use Microsoft, strict rules about using other IT systems)

Previous Minutes

- Minutes from 9/12/2023 were approved

Jim Montgomery's Report from the Board

- Marc Elrich said kindergarten readiness was the biggest problem Montgomery County faced when he was elected in 2019, said this again recently
 - There was a joint meeting between the Education and Culture Committee and Health and Human Services Committee regarding the early childhood initiative to address early childhood literacy and kindergarten readiness
 - Every stakeholder was present in this meeting EXCEPT the library, this has been a trend
 - The executive and legislature seemingly don't view libraries as a part of this initiative
 - There is now a public-private partnership that has been put together without anyone from the library involved, the Children's Opportunity Alliance
 - The Councilmembers were shocked by the state of kindergarten readiness
- Tomorrow, November 15, 2023 from 7:30 to 8:30 there is a session on the role of LAC Chairs and members